"comprising"); (v) to remove or amend original claim language that could be regarded as alternative expressions that are acceptable under foreign patent practice but possibly subject to objection under U.S. practice, typically having a broadening or neutral effect in the amended claim; and/or (vi) to improve the clarity or meaning of the original language.

In the case of amendments effectively changing an original claim element expressed as a "means plus function" that could raise a presumption of claim expression under 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph to a structural expression or to an expression removing the presumption of a "means-plus-function" statement, it is not intended to narrow the claim so amended for purposes of patentability, but rather to place the claim in a form considered to be intended by the applicant from a foreign country where claim limitations described in terms of means-plus-function do not have the same effect as under U.S. practice. Thus, such amendments are intended to establish a full range of equivalents to the claim elements so amended under the U.S. doctrine of equivalents and beyond the range associated with "means-plus-function" expressions according to 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph, just as if the claim so amended was presented originally in its amended form.

All rights are reserved to the original disclosed and claimed subject matter and any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~(1)~~ for checking bank notes ~~(BN)~~ including a semiconductor array which scans the bank notes ~~(BN)~~ to be checked ~~by means of a semiconductor array (4, 5)~~, the semiconductor array ~~(4, 5)~~ being formed by at least two parallel spaced, linear semiconductor arrays ~~(4, 5)~~, and wherein the bank notes are ~~(BN) being~~ moved for the check past the semiconductor array ~~(4, 5)~~ and illuminated by a light source (2), comprising:
~~characterized in that~~

the linear semiconductor arrays ~~(4, 5)~~ are formed by at least three layers ~~(b, g, r)~~ which are maximally sensitive to light of different wavelengths, including a first linear semiconductor array ~~(4) scanning~~ arranged to scan the bank notes ~~(BN)~~ in a defined range of sensitivity of the semiconductor, and a second linear semiconductor array ~~(5) scanning~~ arranged to scan the bank notes ~~(BN)~~ in a sensitivity spectrum range different therefrom, for which purpose at least the second linear semiconductor array ~~(5)~~ has a filter ~~(6)~~ which passes only a part of the spectrum.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first semiconductor array ~~(4)~~ is sensitive to the total spectrum, and the second semiconductor array ~~(5)~~ is provided with a filter which passes only the invisible part ~~component~~ of the spectrum.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first semiconductor array ~~(4)~~ is sensitive to the total spectrum, and the second semiconductor array ~~(5)~~ is provided with a filter which passes only the visible part of the spectrum but blocks the invisible part.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first semiconductor array ~~(4)~~ is provided with a filter which passes only the visible part of the spectrum, and the second semiconductor array ~~(5)~~ is provided with a filter which passes only an invisible part of the spectrum.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to any one of claims [[1]] 2 to 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the invisible ~~light~~ part of the spectrum is in the infrared range ~~of the spectrum~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to any one of claims [[1]] 2 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the invisible part of the spectrum ~~light~~ is in the ultraviolet range ~~of the spectrum~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, including ~~any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ a control and evaluation device ~~(7) is present~~ which is arranged to process and evaluate ~~processes and evaluates~~ signals from the two semiconductor arrays ~~(4, 5)~~ in order to produce a three-color image and at least one image in the range of invisible light from the signals of the layers ~~(b, g, r)~~ of the two linear semiconductor arrays ~~(4, 5)~~ by a combination of the signals for each bank note ~~(BN)~~ to be checked.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ the semiconductor array ~~(4, 5)~~ and the light source ~~(2)~~ are disposed on at least one of the same side ~~and/or on~~ and different sides of the bank note ~~(BN)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ the two linear semiconductor arrays ~~(4, 5)~~ are located on a single substrate.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the two semiconductor arrays ~~(4, 5)~~ are made of silicon.